

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

P69Ra

THE GARDEN CALENDAR

★ APR 21 1930 ★

U. S. Department of Agriculture

A radio talk by Mr. W. R. Beattie, horticulturist, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered through Station WRC and 34 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, Tuesday, April 8, 1930.

In several of my recent garden calendar talks, I have emphasized the importance of producing more and more of the living for the family right at home. Not that there is any shortage of fruits and vegetables and other foods on our markets, but I know from experience and observation that people living on farms frequently can not get to the markets nor do they always have the money to purchase the fresh fruits and vegetables that are needed in the diet. Today, I am giving you a brief review of five Farmers' Bulletins, all of which have to do directly with the production of fruits and vegetables at home. First, I want to say a word about the more or less permanent fruits and vegetables. I refer to those that produce crops year after year covering a period of several years. These crops are discussed and their methods of culture described in Farmers' Bulletin No. 1-2-4-2. Among the perennial vegetables discussed in this bulletin are asparagus, rhubarb, and hose-radish, while among the fruits raspberries, black-berries, loganberries, currants, gooseberries, strawberries and grapes are discussed. There are 18 pages in this little bulletin and 11 illustrations, so I think that most of you who are in the least interested in growing the permanent vegetables and small fruits for home use will find it interesting reading.

When it comes to growing the standard deciduous fruits such as apples, peaches, plums, cherries, and pears for home use, we can offer you Farmers' Bulletin No. 1-0-0-1, the title of which is "Growing Fruits for Home Use." This bulletin includes information on nursery stock, the handling of the nursery stock when received from the nursery, planting, pruning, care of the trees during the first years of their growth, also a map of the United States showing the districts to which the various varieties are adapted. Then there is quite a lengthy list of varieties of the different fruits according to their adaptation to each district. Altogether the country is divided into 14 of these districts, so that no one should have difficulty in selecting varieties that are suited to their particular district. It is Farmers' Bulletin No. 10-0-1.

Pruning is a very important factor in fruit production, and the planting of the proper varieties for your locality would not insure you crops of fruit without the necessary pruning of the trees. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1-8-1 entitled "Pruning," contains numerous illustrations showing the proper methods to prune the various fruits, also illustrations of tools necessary for doing the work. Commercial orchardists in the various sections of the country have developed their own methods of pruning and shaping their trees, but Farmers' Bulletin No. 1-8-1 gives general principles and suggestions that will help any fruit grower, especially those who are growing fruit on a small scale for home use in working out their scheme for pruning and forming the growth habits of their trees.

When it comes to the vegetable garden, we have several bulletins, two in particular that I want to mention today. One of these is of particular interest to the person having a small garden such as a town-lot or a plot of ground in a village or on the outskirts of town. It is Farmers' Bulletin No. 10-4-4. This bulletin contains practical information upon the crops that can be grown to best advantage under the conditions that are

(over)

found in town and village gardens.

The bulletins that I have mentioned all tell about how to plant and grow the crops. There is another phase of the problem, however, that must not be overlooked and that is the fight on insects and diseases. We can offer you several bulletins along this line, but I want to mention Farmers' Bulletin 1-3-7-1, which deals with the "Diseases and Insects of Garden Vegetables." The information contained in this bulletin is in very condensed form and is suitable for those who are growing vegetables for home use. All of these bulletins should be in the home library of everyone who is producing fruits and vegetables for the home table.

While these bulletins are sent without special cost to you, they do cost money to produce, therefore, when you receive them, adopt some method of filing them for future reference. I know from experience that after looking through a bulletin, I often mislay it and forget where it is. By having a definite box or file in which to place all of the bulletins pertaining to gardens, you will be spared the annoyance of hunting for them when they are again wanted for reference.